

## Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 /151 W

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R 160910Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2520

INFO SECDEF

CSAF

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMFAIRMED

COMFAIRMEDREP ATHENS

CHJUSMAGG ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1036

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, GR, US

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF, HAF RE STATE OF HAF

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR AND DATT LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY TO PAPANICOLAOU'S EXPOSITION OF HAF NEEDS AND INDICATED DESIRE TO HELP WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES BUT MADE CLEAR THAT GRANT AID PROVISION OF AIRCRAFT UNLIKELY AND THAT LINKING PROVISION OF AIRCRAFT TO SOUDA AB OR ELEFSIS AB AGREEMENTS WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A SOCIAL FUNCTION ON FEB 12, 1974, AMBASSADOR AND DATT HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH LT GEN PAPANICOLAOU, CHIEF, HELLENIC AIR FORCE, AND ASKED FOR LATTER'S ASSESSMENT OF HAF. PAPANICOLAOU STATED THAT OUT OF APPROXIMATELY 500 AIRCRAFT, ONLY 60 COULD BE COUNTED UPON. HAF CARGO AIRCRAFT WERE OBSOLETE AND HAD  
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INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY (ONLY 12 OF 44 NORATLAS WERE AIR

WORTHY). HE POINTED OUT THAT ALL C-47'S, NORATLAS, F-84'S AND T-33'S WERE "G" FORCE LIMITED, AND F-102'S WERE UNRELIABLE. HE INDICATED HIS PILOTS WERE LESS THAN CONFIDENT IN THEIR AIRCRAFT.

2. PAPANICOLAOU FELT THAT U.S. AND GREECE WERE NOT JUST ALLIES BUT ABOVE ALL FRIENDS AND THAT BOTH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING HAF TO DEGENERATE. HE STRESSED THAT FOR PAST TEN YEARS NOTHING REALLY HAD BEEN DONE TO KEEP HAF UP TO PAR. HE BELIEVED THAT U.S. AND GREECE MUST FIND A WAY TO HELP HAF AND VERY SOON. AT MINIMUM, HAF NEEDED 2 FIGHTER/BOMBER SQUADRONS, ONE TRAINER SQUADRON, AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT.

3. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED MUTUALLY SUPPORTING INTERDEPENDENT NATURE OF DEFENSE FORCES AVAILABLE FOR DEFENSE OF GREECE (I.E. GREEK ARMED FORCES, SIXTH FLEET, US AND ALLIED AUGMENTATION FORCES, AND NUCLEAR UMBRELLA), WHICH GENERAL PAPANICOLAOU ACKNOWLEDGED. PAPANICOLAOU, HOWEVER, STATED HIS BELIEF THAT GREEK PILOTS FLYING MODERN U.S. AIRCRAFT WOULD ELIMINATE THE NECESSITY TO HAVE U.S. AUGMENTATION AIR FORCES DEPLOY TO GREECE IN EVENT OF HOSTILITIES IN THE AREA. HE FELT, TOO, THAT HAF FLYING MODER U.S. AIRCRAFT COULD BE USED TO AUGMENT OTHER COMMON INTEREST MISSIONS IN AREA. AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HAF'S PROBLEM MUST BE VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A PLANNED, INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. GENERAL PAPANICOLAOU TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT JUSMAGG HAD SUCH PLANS (FROM 1969 ONWARD) AND THAT HE ALSO HAD HIS PLANS FOR MODERNIZING HAF. PAPANICOLAOU SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR BE BRIEFED DIRECTLY BY HAF C REGARDING THEIR AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM TO INCLUDE VISITS TO BASES. AMBASSADOR AGREED.

4. AMBASSADOR THEN NOTED THAT IT BOTH UNWISE AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO LINK SATISFACTION OF HAF NEEDS TO AGREEMENTS ON SOUDA AB AND ELEFSIS AB. THIS APPROACH HAD CAST A SHADOW ON EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN FRIENDS. HE HOPED THIS SHADOW COULD BE LIFTED QUICKLY BY EARLY AGREEMENT ON SOUDA AB, WHICH WAS NECESSARY TO FULFILLMENT

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OF US NATO COMMITMENTS. PAPANICOLAOU LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS POINT AND THAT GREEK MILITARY WOULD REVIEW THEIR POSITION.

5. IN THIS CONTEXT, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED CHAGRIN AT HARD POSITION RECENTLY TAKEN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE QUESTION OF A QUID PRO QUO. AMBASSADOR STATED THAT SELECTION OF

GREECE FOR CARRIER HOMEPORTING REFLECTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HIGH ESTEEM IN WHICH GREEK MILITARY HELD BY U.S. MILITARY.

6. COMMENT: PAPANICOLAOU SHOULD BY NOW APPRECIATE THAT GIFT OF US AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING, BUT WILL KNOW THAT HIS NEEDS ARE VIEWED SYMPATHETICALLY, PARTICULARLY AFTER HAFIC HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS PLIGHT TO AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE HAF IS IN POOR SHPE, EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE F-4 PROGRAM, AND THAT GREECE'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO EN-VISAGE PURCHASING NEW HIGH-COST FIGHTERS AND TRANSPORT PLANES. ANY ASSISTANCE THE US COULD PROVIDE WITHIN US FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL PARAMETERS WOULD ASSIST GREECE TO FULFILL ITS NATO OBLIGATIONS AND WOULD BE CONSONANT WITH THE NIXON DOCTRINE THAT LOCAL FORCES SHOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY THEIR OWN WEIGHT. MOREOVER, SO LONG AS THE HAF CONSIDERS ITSELF VIRTUALLY INEFFECTIVE IT MAY BE INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO SEE ITS FACILITIES USED BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**TAGS:** MASS, MARR, GR, US, HAF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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